

PHOTOGRAPHIC
COLL. 1756
MED. EDIN.

COPY OF THE REPORT

To the Secretary of State for the Home Department, from the National Vaccine Establishment; dated 8th April 1819.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LORD VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH,

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT,

&c. &c. &c.

NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT,

Percy-street, 8th April 1819.

MY LORD,

THE Board have the honour of reporting to Your Lordship, that during the year 1818, the number of persons vaccinated at the Stations in London and the vicinity, have amounted to 6,289; and their correspondents throughout the kingdom have reported that they have vaccinated 57,897. These numbers however are not to be considered as the whole; for many Surgeons who are supplied with Vaccine Lymph from this Establishment, do not report the entire numbers of those whom they vaccinate.

From the first establishment of the Board in 1808, an annual increase has taken place in the demand for Vaccine Lymph, of which 50,116 charges have been distributed to the public during the preceding year.

The Board have much satisfaction in laying before your Lordship unequivocal evidence of the increasing advantages of the Jennerian discovery: for it appears from the Bills of Mortality of London, that instead of two thousand deaths by Small Pox, which were the annual average previous to the practice of Vaccination, there died last year only four hundred and twenty-one.

In addition to this gratifying decrease of the ravages of Small Pox in the Metropolis, the Board are also enabled to state, from authentic information, that its diminution has likewise been considerable in many other places. In the towns of Shrewsbury, Worksop and Faversham, and in the city of Armagh, no case of Small Pox has for some time occurred; and the Board are informed by the Secretary of Addinbroke's Hospital in Cambridge, a district where great impediments have been heretofore thrown in the way of Vaccination, that eight thousand persons were vaccinated during the last year. As an additional proof of the vast progress of Vaccination in the British possessions in India, the Board have much pleasure in noticing a communication from the Abbé Dubois, catholic missionary in the Mysore, in which he states, that he has himself had the happiness to secure nearly a Lac (above 98,000) of individuals from the Small Pox, without one authenticated case of failure. By a return from Ceylon also, it appears that 23,464 persons were vaccinated in that government alone, during the year 1817.

It is a very singular fact that the Small Pox was extinguished sixteen years ago in the parish of Mickleham in Surrey, and has never appeared in it since: this has been accomplished by Mr. Curtis, surgeon at Dorking, who vaccinated periodically all the poor of the neighbourhood by the direction, and at the expense of the late William Lock, esquire, of Norbury Park, whose beneficent scheme, after his decease, was laudably continued by his widow. Such praiseworthy examples, highly deserving general imitation, unequivocally evince what may be effected by a judicious application of the power of the Vaccine.

It will be gratifying to your Lordship to know, that independently of the continued distribution of Vaccine Lymph from this Board, to all parts of the British dominions, the reputation of its purity is such, that applications for a supply are often made from Foreign Countries.

His Excellency Prince Esterhazy, Ambassador from the Austrian Court, lately requested some charges of Lymph to vaccinate the children of the Imperial Family. These were immediately transmitted, and proved effective; since which, a fresh supply has been required to vaccinate the children of the Archduke Francis. Vaccine Lymph has also been transmitted to Carlsruhe, to the Island of Madeira, to New South Wales, to Sierra Leone, to Otaheite, to Rio Janeiro; and thence has been forwarded to Bahia, Pernambuco, and again to New South Wales. From these favourable statements, the Board have no serious deductions to make, although they feel it their duty candidly to communicate some unfortunate events, unfortunate more from their unfriendly impression upon the minds of many, than from any substantial doubts they can create of the efficacy of the Vaccine.

Five cases have been reported to the Board, of vaccinated persons who have subsequently died of Small Pox. In one of these cases, it was clearly ascertained, that the only Vaccine Vesicle which had been excited, was disturbed and broken in its progress, which there is great reason for believing has been a frequent cause of the insecurity of Vaccination; in the other cases, no detail respecting the Vaccination could be obtained, and they were moreover all vaccinated at a period of time when the mode of Vaccination, and the management of the Vesicle, were not well understood.

In several parts of the United Kingdom, particularly near Edinburgh, an anomalous disease, bearing some resemblance to Small Pox, has appeared in many persons. It has been described by several Professional Gentlemen of great eminence and experience. From their statements, it appears that this eruption attacked indiscriminately persons who had been previously vaccinated, who had had the Small Pox, or who had not gone through either disease.

Of whatever defined nature this eruption may be considered, it is highly gratifying to remark, that no death occurred in any person who had been previously vaccinated, neither was it in them so violent; whereas in many others it was malignant, and proved mortal to several. It has therefore been justly concluded, from the investigation which has been instituted in Edinburgh, that the circumstances which have occurred in the history of this eruption, more strongly confirm the utility of Vaccination.

As a diversity of opinion, however, has prevailed of the precise nature of this eruption, among those who witnessed it, considerable alarm has been excited in the public mind. The Board are unable to form any very decided opinion upon this subject; because, in the cases where this varioloid disease is stated to have occurred subsequently to Small Pox, the symptoms of the Small Pox have not been detailed; and in the cases where it followed the Vaccine, the particulars of the Vaccine process, except in a few instances, are omitted. But in these few, it appears that the Vaccine process had not been conducted on the plan recommended by this Board, and which experience has proved to be most efficacious.

In London, some eruptive cases have occurred in persons who had been previously vaccinated; these the Board have had opportunities of examining: and it has been discovered by the Directors that the eruption in most instances was the Chicken Pox; in a few, the mitigated Small Pox: and it should not be passed unnoticed, that in all these latter cases, Vaccination had been performed and conducted in the manner which was originally frequently practised, before the adoption of the superior method which has been recommended by the Board, and which they have taken much pains to inculcate in their printed directions.

For it is a fact which cannot be too strongly impressed upon the public, that there is a considerable difference of success in the different modes of inserting and conducting the Vaccine. Hence the Board are informed by some Surgeons that a portion of their vaccinated patients have been subsequently affected with the Small Pox, though in a mild form; while other Surgeons state, that they have vaccinated many thousands without a single failure. As, however, the cases vaccinated at the Stations of the Board are all registered, they possess the sure means of ascertaining the real effects of correct Vaccination.

From the foundation of this Establishment in the year 1808, to the present year, there have been vaccinated at these Stations in London 52,253 persons. Only four of these are yet known to have had the Small-Pox afterwards, and these were never very seriously ill. This triumphant success of the National Vaccine Establishment

in London, where the Small Pox infection is always unfortunately prevalent, proves decidedly both the superior virtues of the Vaccine, and the excellence of the method of practice adopted and recommended by the Board. They therefore feel it an imperious duty strongly to urge the medical profession at large to sacrifice their peculiar notions of practice, however ingenious, and to adopt literally that plan which by much experience has been found so effectual.

While there are still persons who can be found to question the efficacy of the Vaccine, it is proper to remark that in the course of the year, *fifteen* cases have been reported to the Board, of Small Pox attacking the same individual twice, two of which proved fatal.

It is painful to the Board not to be able to close this Report without again being obliged to call your Lordship's attention to the conduct of some men, who, as it appears, still continue the improper practice of Small Pox Inoculation. These persons insinuate themselves into families, increase their fears, and work upon their feelings and prejudices by distorted statements. They thus mainly contribute to the continuance of a highly malignant and fatal disease, to the injury too of those honourable practitioners who so meritoriously refuse to inoculate for the Small Pox.

In their Report of the year 1815, the Board adverted to the Prosecutions instituted against persons who had, either by means of Inoculation, or by carrying about diseased patients, endangered the health and safety of the public.

Those Prosecutions had the effect of promulgating the law, which upon this particular subject had not before been enforced; and the measures of the Board operated beneficially in checking such injurious practices, not only in the Metropolis, but also in some populous districts of the Country, where an hostility to Vaccination was combined with an obstinate determination to alarm and endanger the neighbourhood, by openly exposing children covered with the Small Pox.

The Board, to the period of this their Tenth Annual Report, have been continually more confirmed in their opinion as to the security of the Vaccine; the extension of which is, in this Country alone, still obstructed by the misconduct of certain persons as already mentioned, complaints of which are still made frequently to the Board from respectable Medical Practitioners, and others, in the hopes of obtaining redress.

The Board, therefore, feel it a duty to submit to His Majesty's Government the propriety of encouraging the enforcement of the existing laws against the exposure of persons labouring under the Small Pox, as a mean, not only of preserving the community from variolous contagion, but of more generally diffusing the inestimable advantages of the Jennerian discovery.

J. LATHAM,
(President of the Royal College of Physicians.)

<i>Henry Ainslie,</i>	} CENSORS of the Royal College of Physicians.
<i>E. D. Nevins,</i>	
<i>Richard Harrison,</i>	
<i>G. D. Yeats,</i>	

T. Keate,
MASTER of the Royal College of Surgeons.

<i>David Dundas,</i>	} GOVERNORS of the Royal College of Surgeons.
<i>Thompson Forster,</i>	

By Order of the Board,

James Hervey, M. D.
Registrar.

COPY OF THE REPORT

To the Secretary of State for the Home Department,
from the National Vaccine Establishment; dated
8th April 1819.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
4 May 1819.